

1st person POV → personal

And there, at last, I got my ticket to the disaster.

Ground Zero

Stands out

I COULD see not just into the pit now, but also its access ramp, which trucks had been traveling up and down since I had arrived that morning. Gathered along the ramp were firefighters in their black helmets and black coats. Slowly they lined up, and it became clear that this was an honor guard, and that someone's remains were being carried up the ramp toward the open door of an ambulance.

Dark Times

United

Respectful

Everyone in the dining room stopped eating. Several people stood up, whether out of respect or to see better, I don't know. For a moment, everything paused.

just like when it happened

life goes on

Then the day flowed back into itself. Soon I was outside once more, joining the tide of people

cycle

washing around the site. Later, as I huddled with a little crowd on the viewing platform, watching people

leaving it?

scrawl their names or write "God Bless America" on the plywood walls, it occurred to me that a form of

what does she mean?

repopulation was taking effect, with so many visitors to this place, thousands of visitors, all of us coming to

see the wide emptiness where so many were lost. And by the act of our visiting -- whether we are

motivated by curiosity or horror or reverence or grief or by something confusing that combines them all --

that space fills up again.

The victims? Us?